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(Amendment under the provisions of Art. 11 of the Law)

To: Examiner of the Patent Office

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1. Identification of the International Application

PCT/JP03/01787

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4. Item to be Amended Claims

5. Subject Matter of Amendment

Claims 1 deleted
Claim 2 was amended to independent form

6. List of Attachments:

Pages 36 and 37 of claim

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CLAIMS

1. (deleted)

2. (amended) A pipe coupling comprising:

a socket and a plug that have an appropriate lock
5 mechanism and are detachably connected to each other;

said socket having a socket fluid passage that is
opened or closed with a ball valve incorporated therein,
said socket fluid passage having a primary fluid passage
portion through which a fluid is supplied into said socket,
10 said primary fluid passage portion being provided therein
with a cylindrical seal member in pressure contact with
said ball valve to seal between said ball valve and an
inner wall of said socket fluid passage, and said ball
valve being rotatable to open when said socket and said
15 plug are locked to each other by said lock mechanism;

wherein said ball valve is provided with a sub-valve
bore that allows the fluid in the primary fluid passage
portion of said socket fluid passage to be delivered to a
secondary fluid passage portion of said socket fluid
20 passage through said ball valve before a valve bore of
said ball valve opens into said socket fluid passage when
said ball valve is rotated;

wherein the secondary fluid passage portion of said
socket fluid passage is provided with a movable valve that
25 retracts to open said secondary fluid passage portion when
it is pushed by a distal end of said plug as inserted into
said socket, and when said plug is removed from said
socket, said movable valve advances to close said

secondary fluid passage portion;

said ball valve having a ball rotating shaft to rotate it, said ball rotating shaft being formed with a purge passage having a purge inlet that opens into a secondary space formed in said secondary fluid passage portion between said ball valve and said movable valve, said purge passage further having a purge outlet that opens outside said socket fluid passage, said purge outlet being capable of assuming either of two positions, i.e. one where said purge outlet communicates with a fluid recovery passage provided in said socket, and another where it does not, according to a difference in rotation angle of said ball rotating shaft, wherein when the rotation angle of said ball rotating shaft coincides with an angle at which the valve bore of said ball valve is open into said socket fluid passage, the purge outlet is not in communication with the fluid recovery passage, whereas when the rotation angle of said ball rotating shaft is such that the valve bore of the ball valve is not open into said socket fluid passage, the purge outlet is in communication with the fluid recovery passage.

3. A pipe coupling according to claim 2, wherein a cylindrical seal member is disposed at a communicating opening of the fluid recovery passage that is communicable with the purge outlet of the purge passage formed in said ball rotating shaft, said cylindrical seal member being in pressure contact with said ball rotating shaft to seal between said ball rotating shaft and an inner wall of the